1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29	West Bengal	270	73	31		2.91	Sept.**
30	A & N Islands	128	2692				Sept.
31	Chandigarh	3	4	4		0.13	October$$
32	D &N Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	August
33	Daman & Diu						Not reported
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
35	Pondicherry	151	33	33	0	0.61	November
	Total:	135025	5421	3244	565	977.21	

* Only January & April
$-Only June, July & Sept.
$$-Except May
**-Except April

Pulses through PDS

†464. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses are rising exorbitantly;

(b) if so, whether Government are having any scheme to distribute pulses to poor people through Public Distribution System; and

(c) if so, by when the said scheme would be implemented and the rates in per kilogram at which the pulses would be made available at these shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Indices of different pulses are given in the Statement (*See* below). As seen from the Annexure, annual percentage variation in the WPI of gram, moong and urad as on 10.2.07 has registered a decline as compared to percentage variation in the WPI of these pulses as on 18.11.06. However, in case of tur there is an increase over the period.

(b) and (c) At present, wheat, rice, coarse grains, kerosene and sugar are distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Pulses are not covered under PDS.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Annual percentage variation in the WPI

Pulses	As on 10.2.07	As on 13.1.07	As on 16.12.06	As on 18.11.06
Gram	30.5	29.0	36.4	45.2
Tur	14.3	7.5	6.5	4.2
Moong	29.7	35.4	38.9	39.9
Masoor	6.4	2.9	3.9	-1.0
Urad	19.5	33.0	39.0	45.8

Futures trading in essential commodities

465. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that futures trading in essential commodities is contributing to the price rise of those commodities to certain extent; and

(b) if so, the details of future trading allowed in various essential commodities and the corresponding volume of future trading and increase of prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The main reasons for the recent rise in prices of essential commodities are shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices. In the context of discussion regarding whether and to what exent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities in recent times, the Government has decided to set up an Expert Committee to go into this question in detail.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugar production

466. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of sugar production since 1998-99 indicating estimation for the current season;